

Fremont NH – 2006 Tax Rate Release Information

We are in receipt of the 2006 tax rates. The Selectmen's Office, with input from the Tax Collector, School, and Superintendent's Office, has prepared this information for you in an effort to assist in your understanding of the 2006 tax rate. The new tax rate, set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration on October 3, 2006 is \$20.27 per thousand. This breaks down as follows:

	2004	2005	2006
Town	\$ 5.12	\$ 2.64	\$ 3.17
Local School	\$20.68	\$12.68	\$14.00
State School	\$ 4.28	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.26
County	\$ 1.48	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.84
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Total.	\$31.56	\$18.45	\$20.27

It was difficult to make comparisons between 2004 and 2005 due to the town-wide revaluation. This year, we are back to being able to look at the prior year as a landmark. A key component to the annual setting of the tax rate is the total amount of town-wide assessed valuation. This is the total value of all taxable land and buildings in Fremont. In 2004, the total assessed valuation was \$214,899,427. For 2005, the total assessed valuation rose to \$399,950,562 because of the revaluation. In 2006 the Town's assessed valuation rose again to a total of \$415,332,105.

At Town Meeting, we had forecasted an approximate \$0.50 increase in the Town portion of the tax rate, and it calculated to \$0.53. Town expenses increased due to a 3% cost of living adjustment for employees, new capital reserve funds for a future revaluation and renovations to the Town Hall, as well as an emergency building town trust fund. Two positions were increased from part-time to full-time, and Solid Waste disposal costs increased due to tonnage and tipping fee increases. We again saw an increase in the number of applications for Veterans Credits and Elderly Exemptions. We saw a decrease in revenues from Interest on Investments and in the number of building permits due to the slowing economy.

If you have specific questions about the Town's portion of the tax rate, they can be directed to the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall.

At School District Meeting, it was forecasted that the local school portion of the rate would increase by \$1.57. It calculated to \$1.32 with the consideration of added valuation. Local School changes in the tax rate are related to the following:

- ◇ \$113,348 increase in the Teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement (voted (03/04); and \$31,157 increase in the Paraprofessionals Collective Bargaining Agreement (voted 04/05)
- ◇ \$119,469 increased health insurance costs; \$258,593 increased tuition costs; \$267,503 increased SAU services; \$20,000 in utility cost increases; \$22,093 in student transportation increases; and \$18,238 in food service increases
- ◇ Reductions in the cost of modulars \$109,351; reductions in debt service of \$9,472;
- ◇ Decreases in revenues from State Adequate Education Tax, Building Aid, and Food Service

If you have specific questions about the school expenses, you can contact the Fremont School Board, Ellis School, or the Superintendent's Office. Fremont is part of a new SAU, #83 and can be reached at the Ellis School at 432 Main Street. By phone the Superintendent is at 895 2511 x 103; and the Administrative Staff at 895 2511 x 421.

AS IN ALL YEARS, THE LOCAL TAX RATES (TOWN AND LOCAL SCHOOL) ARE A DIRECT REFLECTION OF THE VOTES TAKEN BY THE VOTERS OF FREMONT AT THE ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS IN MARCH.

The State School tax portion decreased by \$8,184. This rate is based on the equalization ratio and the "cost of an adequate education" as determined by the Department of Education based on weighted average daily membership in residence in each school district. Each school district's percentage of total is then calculated. Each percentage is then multiplied by the Town's share of the State education tax amount to allocate a portion of the state education taxes to each school district. Fremont continues to see less revenue from the State of New Hampshire for education. The difference between the adequate education for each school district and each school district's share of the state education taxes becomes the adequate education grant for each school district. The NH Legislature continues to struggle with the education tax issues, including "donor" versus "receiver" towns. Fremont received less of a grant in 2006 by \$4,108. This shortage is made up in the local school portion of the tax rate.

The portion of the Rockingham County budget attributable to Fremont increased by \$9,849 to a total of \$348,868. Veteran Credits increased from a total of \$79,500 to \$82,000. Elderly and blind exemptions increased by \$715,000 to \$1,215,000. The elderly exemption was adjusted at the 2006 Town Meeting to make the amount of the exemption more fitting with the increase in property values.

Current use values did not change significantly, but there is value attributable to new homes, garages, sheds, and other property value improvements. Additions to the tax base help to offset expenditures increases and more evenly balance the tax rate.

The Tax Collector's Office at the Town Hall will be open the following dates for payment of taxes:

Thurs November 2, 2006	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Thurs November 9, 2006	6:00 to 8:00 pm
Thurs November 16, 2006	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Tues November 21, 2006	6:00 to 8:00 pm
Tues November 28, 2006	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Weds November 29, 2006	9:00 am to noon
Thurs November 30, 2006	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Taxes are due by Friday December 1, 2006.	

If you have questions about your assessment, please feel free to stop by the Selectmen's Office and review the records. All property assessing records are public information. You can access the information online at the Vision Appraisal website at www.visionappraisal.com. We send updates in several times a year to the Vision site, and you can see the most recent date of updates when you log on. The Selectmen's Office is open Monday and Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon; Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am to 12 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm; and Thursday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The taxpayer terminal at the Selectmen's Office allows you to access the in-house database from our counter, with the most up to date information available. We will also mail out your card if you are unable to get to the office.

If you feel that your property is disproportionately assessed, or there are listing errors on your card, you will need to file an abatement. Our abatement information sheet is available at the Town Offices and on the town website at www.fremont.nh.gov. Abatement forms are available at the Selectmen's Office, or can be downloaded from the NHBTLA website at <http://www.nh.gov/btla/forms.html>, (*Taxpayers 76:16 Abatement Application to Municipality*) as well as from the Town's website. You can also call or email the Selectmen's Office and we will send one out to you. Abatement forms are DUE no later than MARCH 1, 2007.

Fremont Selectmen's Office
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